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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
OF THE
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 1938,

BY
RICHARD R. K. PATON,
M.B., CH.B. GLASGOW, D.P.H. CAMBRIDGE,
Medical Officer of Health, Etc., Etc.

INCLUDING THE REPORT
OF THE
**Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing
Superintendent**

(Mr. DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.R.San.I.)

ST. ALBANS:
PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

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Officers of the Council engaged in Health Work.

Clerk (full time)	Mr. E. F. G. LAWS.
Surveyor (full time)	...	...	Mr. C. HUSKINSON.
*Medical Officer of Health	...	...	Dr. R. R. K. PATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
*Sanitary Inspector (whole time)	...	...	Mr. D. J. GRAHAM, M.R. SAN. I., M.S.I.A.

* Contribution made to Salary from Exchequer Grants.

To the Chairman and Members of the St. Albans Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Report for the year 1938, of the Medical Officer of Health for the District over which you preside.

Social Conditions and Occupations.

The District is composed of seven parishes, consisting of villages and scattered cottages.

The occupation is largely agricultural, but there are several small factories in the District, and some of the inhabitants work in the neighbouring towns.

There are at present no conditions in the area or environment which may be regarded as prejudicial to the general health.

General Statistics.

Area, 32,084 acres (Harpenden Rural 2,854 acres, Redbourn 4,401 acres, St. Michael Rural 5,403 acres, St. Peter Rural 4,472 acres, St. Stephen Rural 5,157 acres, Sandridge 3,572 acres, Wheathampstead 6,225 acres).

Population (1931) 9,067 males and 10,504 females.

Population, residential (1938), 21,030.

Number of inhabited houses (1938) 5,341.

Number of houses erected during year by Council 46, by private enterprise 299.

The following table gives the provisional Vital Statistics for England and Wales, etc., for the year 1938:—

	Birth Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Deaths under One Year per 1000 Births.
England and Wales	15·1	11·6	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	15·0	11·7	57
148 Smaller Towns (1931 Census Populations 25,000 to 50,000).	15·4	11·0	51
London	13·4	11·4	57
St. Albans Rural...	15·1	8·2	25

During the year 318 births were notified: 167 males and 151 females. Of these, 4 males and 5 females were illegitimate. There were 187 deaths notified (89 males and 98 females) giving a death rate of 8.8 per 1000 population. To be comparable with the rest of the country this rate is reduced to 8.2 per 1000 population,

There were 8 deaths of children under one year, and the Infant Mortality rate is 25 per 1000 live births.

There were 9 still births, all of which were legitimate.

Of the 8 of deaths of children under one year all were legitimate.

Mortality Table for Year 1938.

* CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...
Measles	1	...	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Influenza	1	1	2
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	...	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	1	6
Other Tuberculous Diseases... ..	1	1	2
Syphilis ... ..	...	...	...
General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	1	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	13	18	31
Diabetes... ..	2	1	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	7	6	13
Heart Disease	22	30	52
Aneurysm ... ..	...	...	...
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	6	8
Bronchitis	5	4	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	4	8
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	...	1	1
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	...	...	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	1	...	1
Appendicitis ... ..	...	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Liver, etc... ..	...	...	...
Other Digestive Diseases	1	5	6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	...	...	...
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	...
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	...	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth	1	3	4
Senility	3	2	5
Suicide	2	...	2
Other Deaths from Violence... ..	10	5	15
Other Defined Diseases	6	7	13
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...
All Causes... ..	89	98	187

Percentage of Deaths in Public Institutions, 33.

Deaths in Childbirth: Sepsis 0, Other Causes 1.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Small Pox	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	5	2	...	1	...	8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1938.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.			Harpenden Rural.	Redbourn.	St. Michael Rural.	St. Peter Rural.	St. Stephen Rural.	Sandridge Rural.	Wheat- hampstead.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases. Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria...	1	5	2	...	1	9	9	...
Scarlet Fever	31	2	...	1	34	34	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
Erisipelas	4	...	...	...	4	...	...
Pneumonia	14	...	...	...	14	...	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Puerperal Pyæxia...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Puerperal Fever
Totals	1	1	56	4	...	2	64	44	8

Scarlet Fever has been prevalent at London Colney.

Chicken Pox and Measles have affected the attendances at the Elementary Schools. One case of Dysentry and one of Anterior Poliomyelitis from St. Peter's were also notified.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	1	...	1	2	...	...	1	...
10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
25	3	5	...	2	1	...	...	1
35	1	...	...	1	2	1	...	...
45	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	12	5	1	5	5	1	1	1

All the deaths from Tuberculosis were previously notified. There is no neglect of notification in the District, and there is no evidence of excess of mortality in any particular occupation in the District.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, Articles 3, 5, and 6.

No action has been necessary under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Preventive Measures.

At the Sisters' Hospital there is a Washington-Lyon Steam Disinfector where bedding and clothes may be disinfected. This is always done in cases of Scarlet Fever, Smallpox, etc., and frequently done after such illnesses as Consumption and Cancer. This work is done by the porter at the Hospital.

Formaldehyde is the disinfectant almost universally used in this District, but in addition, every room is thoroughly cleansed with soap, water and fresh air, and where necessary, whitewashed and papered. This work is done under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Arrangements are made by this Council with Herts County Council Laboratory, Hill End, the Clinical Research Association and the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examinations to be made at the expense of this Council.

I have received during the year 25 reports from them on Swabs examined for Klebs Loeffler Bacilli for Diphtheria, 2 of which were positive.

Two sputa were examined for Tubercle Bacilli with negative results, and two swabs were examined for Hæmolytic Streptococci, also with negative results.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is in all suitable cases supplied at the expense of this Council.

Vaccination.

The following figures are for the twelve months ending June 30th, 1938, and have been supplied to me by Mr. Seabrook, the Vaccination Officer :—

During this period there were 243 children born in this District, distributed among the Parishes as shown in the following table :—

5 of these died in infancy without being vaccinated.

13 have gone away from the District before being vaccinated.

148 Conscientious Objection Certificates were granted.

77 were vaccinated.

Parishes.		Births	Deaths	Removal to places unknown, and Vac- cination Officers Apprised	Vaccin- ated.	Conscient- ious Objection Certifi- cates.
Harpenden Rural	...	2	...	...	1	1
Redbourn	...	38	...	1	12	25
St. Michael Rural	...	4	1	1	2	...
St. Peter Rural	...	110	1	5	37	67
St. Stephen Rural	..	48	2	3	18	25
Sandridge	...	7	...	..	...	7
Wheathampstead...	...	34	1	3	7	23
Totals	...	243	5	13	77	148

Hospitals, Nursing Arrangements, and other Institutions available for the District.

St. Albans Joint Hospital Board.

Matron : Miss Banner, The Sisters' Hospital, St. Albans.

Medical Superintendent : Dr. R. R. K. Paton (non-resident).

(a) **The Sisters' Hospital**, Union Lane, St. Albans, which consists of :—

1. Administration Block.
2. Scarlet Fever (accommodation 36 beds). There are 2 Wards of 2 beds each reserved for Cerebro-spinal Fever.
3. Diphtheria (accommodation 33 beds).
4. Cubicle Ward of 10 separate beds.

There is a Washington-Lyon Steam Disinfector.

A Motor Ambulance is kept at the Hospital.

Porter : Mr. C. R. Dye.

The following Institutions supply the other needs of the District :—

St. Albans and Mid Herts Hospital and Dispensary

Watford General Hospital.

Hemel Hempstead Hospital.

The Public Assistance Institution, Oster House.

St. Albans Union Infirmary.

St. Albans District Nursing Association.

Harpenden Nursing Centre.

St. Albans County Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Watford County Tuberculosis Dispensary.

The Cherry Tree Small Pox Hospital.

There is also a District Nurse in each of the following villages :—Bricket Wood, London Colney, Park Street, Redbourn, Sandridge, Wheathampstead, and Colney Heath.

Ambulance. There is a Red Cross Motor Ambulance in the City, the property of the St. Albans Town Council.

The Ambulance is kept at the Fire Station, St. Albans, and is in charge of the Chief Constable (Tel. 18).

It is available for the use of St. Albans and District at a fixed charge of 1/- per mile. Minimum 5/-

Public Elementary Schools.

There are 13 Public Elementary Schools in the District, 4 of which are County Council Schools.

Water Supply.

The District is largely supplied by service mains from Water Companies and private undertakings in the area. Most of the Companies concerned arrange for private and independent periodical analyse. These generally show the water in this area to be of a high degree of organic and bacterial purity, and the supplies are plentiful. Deep wells of plentiful supply still exist in the more rural parts of the District, and there are a few shallow wells. In the case of some of the wells the quality of the water is doubtful, and, where opportunity offers, the Council enforce the provision of a main supply.

During the year 28 samples were submitted for analysis.

The work in connection with the provision of a piped supply by the Council in the Parish of Redbourn is now in hand, and the question of providing a piped supply to the Gustard Wood portion of the Parish of Wheathampstead is under consideration.

Sewage Schemes.

Parts of the District are provided with up-to-date sewage farms and the remaining parts of the District are drained by cesspools. In the case of a few cottages the waste water is disposed of in the cottage gardens, but in all such cases steps are taken as opportunity offers to require the provision of suitable drainage.

Work in connection with the provision of sewers in the Parishes of Redbourn and Sandridge is now in hand.

Rivers Pollution.

The effluent at the London Colney Sewage Farm has not always been quite satisfactory. A scheme to remedy the present unsatisfactory position is under consideration.

The following table gives particulars regarding the means of water supply and the system of sewage disposal in each parish :—

Parish	Water Supply	Sewage Schemes
Harpenden Rural...	Kinsbourne Green and area near Harpenden served by Harpenden Water Company. Outlying. Deep Wells, good supply.	Private Cesspools.
Redbourn	...Gorhambury and Shafford Estates have a piped private supply. Redbourn Village. Nine Public Pumps and Wells and Private Wells. Good supply.	Public Cesspools for drainage of East Common and Fish Street Area. Private Cesspools.
St Michael Rural	Parts of the district supplied by service from St. Albans, Hemel Hempstead, the Childwick and Gorhambury Water Supplies. Deep Wells. Good supply.	Private Cesspools in outlying areas.
St. Peter Rural	..London Colney—St. Albans Water Company. Colney Heath—Barnet Water Company (by standards). Near St. Albans—St. Albans Water Company. Hill End and Middlesex County Asylums—Private supplies. Sleapshyde—Public Well and Pump—good supply. Outlying—Private Wells, few shallow but supply usually plentiful.	Sewage Schemes at London Colney Private Sewage Works at Asylums. Outlying districts—Cesspools. Colney Heath, one side of village drained to Cesspools on Common, emptied by Council.
St. Stephen	...Frogmore, Colney Street—St. Albans Water Company. Near Radlett—Colne Valley Water Company. Private Wells. Usually plentiful supply although a few remaining shallow wells.	Private Cesspools.
Sandridge	...Near St. Albans—St. Albans Water Company Service. Deep Wells. One patent water elevator, in Village and engine pump and tank for Council Cottages. Supply good. Piped supply to village.	Private Cesspools. The Village being drained and discharges into a ditch in Hatfield Lane. Emptied & cleaned occasionally by Council Van.
Wheathampstead	...Harpenden Water Company for Wheathampstead Village and Marford. Outlying Wells. Childwickbury Estate in parish has estate water supply. Public pump at Gustard Wood.	Villages of Marford and Wheathampstead sewered to Sewage Works Private Cesspools elsewhere.

NOTE.—Cesspools cleared by Council's vehicles.

Byelaws, Regulations and Adoptive Acts.

The examination of cows now comes under the Veterinary Inspector appointed by the County.

The following Byelaws and Regulations and Adoptive Acts are in force in this District.

They were all in force prior to 1914.

New Streets and Buildings.

Offensive Trades.

Nuisances.

Slaughter Houses.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Van-dwellers.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1889.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 secs. 23
and 36.

Public Health Act 1875 secs. 42, 44, 47 (3), 112,
113, 114, 169 (paragraph 3), 170, 171, 229 and 230.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 (part iv.)
secs. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63,
64, 65, 66, 67 and 68.

Public Health Acts Amendment, 1907, sec. 27
(Temporary Buildings).

Urban Powers in force in parts of the Rural District.—

Public Health Act 1875, sec. 161 (para. 1);
Redbourn.

Public Health Act 1875, sec. 160 (s.s. 1); Redbourn, St. Peter Rural, Sandridge and St. Stephen Rural.

Public Health Acts, 66; St. Michael Rural, St. Peter Rural and Sandridge.

The following parts of the Public Health Act, 1925, are now in force :—

Part II.—Except secs. 21 and 22.

Part III.—Sec. 39, applying only to St. Peter's, St. Stephen's and Wheathampstead, and sec. 44, applying to Redbourn only.

Part IV.

Part V.—Secs, 51, 53, 54 and 55, apply only to St. Peter's, St. Stephen's and Wheathampstead.

Factories and other Premises under the Factories Act, 1937.

The Factories Act of 1937, which came into force on the 1st July, 1938, is a consolidating and amending measure which replaces the Factory and Workshop Act of 1901, and various other enactments, including some provisions of the Public Health Acts.

Immediately after the coming into operation of the Act a visit was paid to all factories situate within the District and a register prepared of all factories with respect to which the Local Authority is responsible for the enforcement of any of the provisions of Part I. of the Act.

Important provisions respecting means of escape in case of fire are contained in Sections 34 and 35. Under Section 34 it is an offence for any premises to which that section applies to

be used as a factory unless there is in force a certificate from the Local Authority that it is provided with such means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as may reasonably be required in the circumstances. Section 34 is applicable to five factories in this District, and a list of these has been furnished to the Council's Surveyor.

Factories.

1.—Inspection for purposes of provisions to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (with mechanical power)	17	1	...
Factories (without mechanical power)	28	2	...
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineer- ing construction, but not including out- workers' premises)		...	...
Total ...	45	3	...

2.—Defects found.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found. (2)	Re-medied. (3)	Referred to H.M. In-spector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3)..	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	...	...	..	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) { insufficient ...	4	...	...	-
{ unsuitable or defective ...	..	...	...	...
{ not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences ...	...	...	...	...
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).	...	...	...	...
Total ...	5	1	...	...

During the year three lists of outworkers respecting ten persons were received.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

Nature of Inspection.					Number:
Housing Inspections under Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	...	...	...	...	175
Re-visits ... ..	...	...	...	...	142
Disinfection of Premises ... ..	...	...	...	...	56
Eradication of Bed Bugs ... ..	...	...	...	...	22
Slaughterhouses ... ..	...	...	...	...	192
Cowsheds, Dairies, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	84
Tents, Vans, Sheds ... ..	...	...	...	...	61
Rat-infested Premises ... ..	...	...	...	...	14
Scavenging generally, and provision of Dustbins..					519
Factories ... ..	...	...	...	...	34
Water Supplies, Water Sampling, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...	22
Nuisance Complaints .. ..	...	...	...	...	96
Total ...					1417

Housing Statistics.

Year ended 31st December, 1938.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 175
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. 317
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 69
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. 97
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 8

- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 39
2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—*
- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 16
3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*
- A.—Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 6
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) by owners Nil
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil
- B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 56
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) by owners 2
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil
- C.—Proceedings under Secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 32
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 24

D.—Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made *Nil*
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit *Nil*

4. *Housing Act, 1936. Part 4.—Overcrowding.*

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 29
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 29
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 217
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 3
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 13
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 79
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding *Nil*
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report *Nil*

Milk Supply.

There are within the district sixty registered cowsheds, distributed as follows :—

Harpenden Rural	...	...	...	4
Redbourn	...	...	...	14
St. Michael Rural	...	...	...	6
St. Peter Rural	...	...	...	6
St Stephen Rural	...	...	...	11
Sandridge	...	...	...	11
Wheathampstead	...	...	...	8

All these premises and all dairies have been regularly visited. In one or two cases it was found that sufficient care was not being exercised to ensure the production of a clean milk supply. The importance of removing all dirt from the flanks, udder and teats of each cow and the thorough cleansing of the udder and teats with a clean damp cloth before milking is begun is not always fully appreciated.

Two new and modern type cowsheds were erected during the year.

The following licences are in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :—

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Licensing Authority.</i>
Tuberculin Tested Milk (production of)	4	County Council.
Accredited Milk (production of)	17	County Council.
Bottling Establishment for Tuberculin Tested Milk	1	Sanitary Authority.
Dealer's Licence in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk	1	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licence re- specting sale of Pasteurised Milk	2	Sanitary Authority.

Slaughterhouses.

There are nine private slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard in the district. In five of these premises very little slaughtering is done. Structurally some of the slaughterhouses are of a poor standard.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Seven infested houses were dealt with. Of these, one was a Council house and the remaining six were small working-class houses. In each case a liquid fumigant was employed.

During the year forty-six families were removed from condemned and overcrowded houses to new Council houses and, as a precautionary measure, their household furniture and effects were treated for the removal of vermin. All bedding was subjected to steam disinfection and the furniture and other effects sprayed with an insecticide.

As a high standard of cleanliness in the home must occupy first place in the fight against the bed bug, the new Council houses have been visited from time to time in order to ensure that they are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Rat Destruction.

During the year nine complaints were received and, in co-operation with the County Rat Officer, advice was given as to the best methods of dealing with these infestations. During Rat Week notices were posted in each parish explaining the preventative measures which could and should be taken.

Camping Sites.

Camping grounds in the vicinity of Woodside Avenue, Bricket Wood, have been a matter of no small concern. Caravan dwellers purchased some plots of land in this locality, mainly for use as winter quarters, though a few of them remained throughout the year. Innumerable complaints were received from nearby householders and property owners and there can be little doubt that the amenities of the district are prejudicially affected by the presence of and the conditions arising from these moveable dwellings.

The Council have under consideration the question of taking action under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, with a view to requiring their removal.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

One privately owned swimming pool was open to the public. Water is drawn from the mains supply. The pool was visited at regular intervals, and a sample of water taken in August was found to be satisfactory.

Public Cleansing.

Public cleansing is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The work involves refuse collection, cesspool emptying and the collection of nightsoil.

Refuse Collection. A weekly collection of house refuse operates over the whole of the district with the exception of farmhouses and isolated houses and cottages. Two vehicles are wholly employed on the work and one articulated vehicle on approximately three days per week. The refuse is disposed of by a modified system of controlled tipping. The service has operated efficiently and smoothly throughout the whole of the year notwithstanding the exceptional difficulties encountered towards the end of December owing to heavy falls of snow. In all, some 4,750 ashbins are cleared each week, and the estimated total weight of refuse dealt with during the year was 2,489 tons.

Nightsoil Collection. A weekly service is given where required throughout the district with the exception of Redbourn, which village is visited twice weekly. One petrol-engined vehicle is engaged on the work, and the nightsoil is deposited on agricultural lands. In all, some 1,750 pails are dealt with each week.

Cesspool Emptying. The emptying of cesspools is carried out over the whole district excepting part of London Colney, part of Colney Heath and part of Wheathampstead, where sewerage systems are in operation. A free service is given to all houses which require it and which are not within a reasonable distance of a sewer.

Owing to the steady growth of the district, it was found that the existing plant was insufficient to cope with the work and an additional cesspool emptier was purchased and put into service at the beginning of March. Two vehicles are now fully employed and one articulated vehicle on approximately three days per week.

Towards the end of the year, owing to the exceptional weather conditions, very considerable difficulty was experienced in keeping abreast of the work and it is confidently hoped that the construction work in connection with the new sewers in the Parishes of Redbourn and Sandridge will have progressed sufficiently to afford some relief in the coming year.

The number of loads of cesspool contents dealt with during the year was 7,112.

I desire to express my indebtedness to my brother Officials for the assistance given me in writing this Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD PATON,

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

